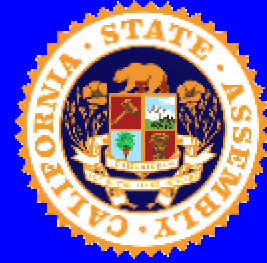




ASSEMBLYMEMBER

JOE COTO



California State Legislature, District 23

2005 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

EDUCATION IS PRIORITY ONE

Assemblymember Joe Coto has made education his number one priority. As a former educator, he firmly believes that the academic success of all students is the most critical part of a state's infrastructure. A strong school system will ensure a bright future for a state. The majority of the Mr. Coto's bills focus on education. The following information provides brief summaries of Coto's legislative bills.

AB 9 (School Funding)



This bill calls for per pupil funding for California's 9,000 public schools to increase to a level among the top five states in the nation by the year 2010. Further, the bill calls for the funding to increase incrementally, closing the gap by 25% per year over the next four years. California per pupil funding currently ranks 43rd in the nation when adjusted for cost of living. The bill, in today's dollars would rise per pupil funding from approximately \$7,300 per year to approximately \$11,000 per year.

AB 1253 (Pupil Achievement of Sequence of Courses Needed for UC Admission)

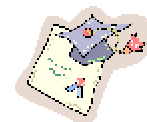


This bill will require California high schools to offer the A-G sequence for courses required for admission to the University of California as the standard course of study for all California high school students. Completion of this sequence of required courses is a key criterion to students' eligibility for college entrance. Some 90% of students entering California's high schools expect to attend college. By graduation, that number has decreased to about 35%. Many studies have shown that too little is expected of students at the high school level. In addition, a high percentage of students who do not achieve

the A-G sequence of courses are students of color. The bill allows for students and parents to petition the school for an alternative course of study, but the A-G curriculum, plus courses in physical education will become the major program that students would be expected to complete.

AB 1196 (State Seal of Bilingualism)

This bill would grant a Bilingual



Certification to those high school students who have successfully completed current foreign language requirements. The State Seal of Bilingualism is given to those students whose Heritage language is other than English and have met the following requirements;

- The completion of all requirements for a high school diploma
- Minimum score on English Language Arts California Standards test of 400
- AP test score of 3 or better
If AP test is not available, the student would take the summative test
- Achieving English Proficiency at advanced level on CELDT

Awarding the State Seal of Bilingualism will promote and honor bilingualism. One in

four (26% of California's children) speak a foreign language at home. This bill has been sponsored by CAFE (California Association of Bilingual Educators).

AB 949 (Alternative School Instructional Time)



This bill calls for students in alternative high schools to experience the same minimum 64,800 annual minutes

requirement of instruction as students in all California high schools. Students attending California's continuation high schools and other alternative settings currently are required to attend school 1,200 minutes per week. These students are among the California's most needy students and yet they currently receive significantly less instruction (two hours per day). This bill would allow these students the same instructional opportunities as all students.

AB 950 (ELL Staff Development)



This bill will call for the development of 15 pilot English Language Learner

Staff Development projects throughout urban California. Districts identified include Sacramento, Fresno, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego and Santa Ana. The success of this pilot project is expected to produce a larger follow-up program in the future. The staff development projects are designed for teams of 3-5 teachers at specific schools, working directly with the principal and employing the Action Research model to establish best practices in teaching English Language Learners. Eighty percent of California's teachers teach over 1.6 million English Language Learners. The success of these students is critical.

AB 953 (High Priority Schools)



This bill is still in the development process. It is submitted in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE). It relates to the requirements for modification of California's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) plan by the US Department of Education (USDE). Most specifically, it deals with the CDE's method of 1) out-of-level testing for special education students, and 2) criteria used by the State to identify LEAs for Program Improvement. The issues are particularly significant in that implementation of the USDE requirements for modification could increase California's number of High Priority LEAs from 14 to 320. Such identification would have a domino effect on the CDE's ability to provide services to High Priority LEAs.

AB 1254 (Standards and Training for Pre-School Teachers)



This bill calls on California universities to establish standards, certification and appropriate training for pre-school teachers and

prospective pre-school teachers. Further, the bill calls on these universities to recruit pre-school teachers to enroll in instructional programs leading to this certification. Pre-school education is increasingly seen as the key to success in schools. It is particularly important in assisting those youngsters least prepared to enter and find success in schools. The knowledge, skill and preparation of pre-school teachers varies greatly throughout the state. Hence, the service they provide students varies. It is part of the goal of this bill to bring unity and definition to pre-school teaching standards and to prepare pre-school teachers to meet these standards.

AB 897 (Instructional Standards in Math for the Blind)



This bill will require school districts and county offices of education to provide opportunities for Braille instruction to Blind or visually impaired students. It will require districts and county offices to provide opportunities for students to learn the Nemeth Code (Braille math code). The bill will require the State Board of Education to ensure that students with visual impairments are given the same opportunities to learn math as sighted students. The 'No Child Left Behind Act' includes the required assessment of students with disabilities to measure their progress with required reading and mathematics skills. Similar legislation for visually impaired students in the area of reading was signed into law in 2002.

AB 1404 (Extension of AB 1307)

This bill will extend the provisions of AB 1307 (2001). The law (which would sunset without new legislation) requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to adopt regulations to provide credential candidates enrolled in commission-accredited preparation programs with not less than 24 months to complete programs to remain bound by program requirements in place when they entered the program. It protects candidates from having to meet new and changing requirements added after the candidates' enrollment in the programs.

AB951 (Education Finance)



This bill allows school districts with the option of using the interest they earn on bonds to fund other educational needs. It would still require the districts to use the bonds funds as specified. The interest would be only on the funds drawn down to be used during a specified period. The Board would have to approve the use of the interest and declare that there are no emergency facility needs that need to be addressed.

AB956 (ROP Facilities Modernization Funding)

This bill will allow regional occupational centers to be deemed 'school districts' for the purpose of applying for modernization projects. Under current law, modernization funds must be allocated from the school districts which participate in the ROP program. However, these very school districts are struggling to meet their own needs and virtually never have modernization dollars left over to assist ROP centers. Many existing ROP centers are aging and in great need of modernization. This change is especially important with the renewed interest in workforce needs represented by regional occupational centers.

AB 1195 (Medical Practice)

This bill extends the continuing education



requirements of the Medical Practice Act to include cultural and competency subjects for physicians and surgeons. Completion of cultural and linguistic competency will enable physicians and surgeons to better understand and communicate with a large sector of California's limited English speaking population. This bill would also create a voluntary program for interested physicians and surgeons to learn a foreign language and cultural beliefs and practices that may impact patient health care practices. This bill is being sponsored by the National Council of La Raza.

AB952 (Surplus Property)

This bill is modeled after SB 1906 and it is designed to provide a school district in San Jose with the ability to use the proceeds from the sale of surplus real property for general fund expenditures. A similar provision was approved last year for Santa Clara Unified School District. During these difficult financial times, this provision allows the district flexibility and offsets the reductions they have had to endure.

AB 955 (Broad Band Expansion and Statewide Mapping)



This bill currently only has intent language. It states that it is the intent of the legislature to establish policies to promote the accelerated deployment of next-generation advanced communications networks in California, irrespective of the technological platform used to deploy those services (i.e., cable television, mobile telephones, the internet, etc.). The bill would enact the Advanced Communications Act. Technet is sponsoring the bill and will provide mapping language to add to the bill.

AB 954 (Right of Mobile Home Owners to Meet w/o Management Supervision) –

This bill would prohibit management, or any employee or agent of the management from attending or monitoring a meeting of a homeowners' group or association unless requested by the group to be present. Basically, it would expand the freedom of association rights of mobile home owners.

AB 1473 (Establishes Micro-enterprise Development) – This two-year bill has intent language at this time. It will be amended to encourage cities and counties to access micro-enterprise development in order to create new jobs and income opportunities for individuals of low and moderate income. In addition, the bill would encourage cities and counties to include micro-enterprise development as a part of their economic development strategy, and encourage public agencies to promote local partnerships that invest in micro-enterprise development.

AB 1593 (Child Nutrition)

This bill would declare that the intent of the legislature is to ensure that the disqualification of vendors under the WIC program complies with the federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. Prior to disqualification, vendors would be given adequate notice and the reasons for the disqualification.



AB1472 (Re development)

Current law authorizes the redevelopment agency to amend its redevelopment plan and extend the time limit of the plan for a maximum of an additional ten years. This bill will amend the provisions authorizing the extension of the time limit on the effectiveness of the plan. The change would authorize more housing and job creation linked by transit.

AB 6 - Assemblymember Chan's Bill, Coto is co-author (Raises State Personal Income Taxes for High Income Owner)



This bill would impose 10% and 11% maximum income tax rates for taxpayers with taxable incomes over certain amounts, and impose an 8.5% maximum rate based upon the taxpayer's alternative minimum taxable income. Under current personal income tax law, taxes are imposed at specified rates, up to a maximum 9.3% based on the amount of the taxpayer's taxable income and a maximum of 7% based on the taxpayer's alternative minimum taxable income. The funds generated would be used to support education. Assemblymember Wilma Chan is the author. Assemblymember Coto is co-sponsoring this bill.

For more information on any of these bills, please contact:

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